



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update February 2023

From President Ray Manning



Greetings everyone!
Welcome to the first
Members' Update for
2023.

First, a reminder that
this year we will meet at
St Marks Uniting Church
in Woburn Road from
Feb to Sept while the
Dowse is refurbished.

We expect to return to the Dowse from October.
In the meantime St Marks is not far away, and
was our venue before moving to the Dowse.

In March we will hold our AGM, and this will
mark U3A Hutt Valley's 30th Anniversary.
Unfortunately, I am not available to stand as your
President for another year, nor is our Secretary,
Cheryl Baughen-Manning, seeking re-election.
Thus, we need to elect a new President, Vice-
President and Secretary at the March AGM.
We are also short by a couple of Committee
members.

We have already reached out to members who
have been regular attendees over the last year
and while we have secured some interest in
joining the Committee or being willing lend a
hand on an ad hoc basis, we have so far not
found anyone willing to stand for the executive
positions.

Leading U3A or standing for the Committee is not
onerous, but it does require that people are
around. Unfortunately, 2023 plans for myself and
Cheryl mean that we will have significant absence
and therefore we cannot do the roles justice.
Covid-19 deferred our Overseas Travel plans, and
we now hope to do a bit of catch up while we still
have the energy to do so.

So can you help? We extend this invitation to all
Hutt Valley U3A members to come forward and
support the organisation for one or more years?

The Notice of the AGM with a nomination form
for officers is attached to this Update.

February speaker Don Manning QSM CEO Wellington Sailability Trust



Don began sailing at
Evans Bay Yacht &
Motorboat Club at the
age of 10 as a crew on an
R class yacht.

As a missionary in Aitutaki
in the Cook Islands, he built a fleet of 10
Optimists Dinghies. This enabled the Oceania
Optimist Championship to become a reality. For
his dedicated efforts he was granted forgiveness
for stealing a shipping container from the Cook
Islands Line, which became the Aitutaki Sailing
Club clubhouse!

Returning to New Zealand in 1999, he joined
Lowry Bay Yacht Club and crewed on *'The Young
And The Restless'*. Twenty years ago Don was
dragged 'kicking and screaming' onto a fledgling
committee to set up a 'Sailability Programme' in
Wellington. He chaired the Sailability Wellington
Trust committee for its first ten years and has
been CEO for the last ten years. Don also served
for three years as the chairman of Yachting New
Zealand's Committee for Sailors with Disabilities.

Don led the trustees and volunteers of Sailability
Wellington to take on the bigger task of helping
to set up Sailability Groups in Nelson, Northland,
Hawkes Bay, Rotorua and Tauranga.

He led Sailability Wellington to expand and take
on a second base at Seaview, and a third one at
Onepoto on the Porirua Harbour. The last one
was at the expense of nearly \$700,000 to provide
an extension to the hard stand, a ramp and
floating pontoon, as well as a fleet of 10 yachts
and a storage shed.

Don was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in
2018.

December meeting

A good time was had by all at our final meeting for 2022.



After a mix and mingle and a light lunch we were delightfully entertained by Andrew London and his wife

Kirsten, seen here with Committee Member and speaker arranger *par excellence* Don Rennie. Their songs, mostly Andrew's original material, explored social and political themes with much humour and satire, poignancy and pathos. It was an enjoyable last U3A meeting for the year.

Group Activities

CATIG's first meeting is Monday 27th Feb at 1pm at Russell Keown House. Come along and sort the world out!

Film Group

Film Group's first outing is 6th Feb to "A Man Called Otto" at the Lighthouse Cinema, and then on the first Monday up to, and including, November. Judy and Gordon Heeley contact group members the previous Wednesday. They also arrange a lunch at Caffiend after the movie for those who want to go, all at your own expense. New members are welcome.

Theatre Group

"In Bed with Schoenberg" on Sun 5th March at 4pm at Downstage is this group's first 2023 outing. The tickets are \$32 and have to be paid for by the 18th February. If you'd like to join the group call Christine on 568 2342.

Local History started the year with a ferry trip to Wellington on 31st Jan and look at historic information on the wharf. A grey day, with cloud hovering on the hills, but general delight at the views and the new electric ferry.



Antiques & Collectibles' first 2023



meeting on Jan 24th shared stories and paraphernalia about weddings. Some brides carry a horseshoe for luck – but why? Originally made of iron (to ward off evil spirits) a horseshoe was held in place by 7 nails (lucky number). Legend has it that the

10thC Saint Dunstan (a blacksmith before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury) was visited by the devil who asked him to shoe his horse. Recognising him, Dunstan nailed the horseshoe to the Devil's foot causing him great pain. He only agreed to remove the shoe after extracting a promise that the devil would never enter a house with a horseshoe nailed to the door!

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U3A groups & their contacts

Antiques and Collectibles – 4th Tue 2pm.
Convenor – Catherine Chapman 970 4932

Armchair Travel - 1st Tue 1.30pm at Failoa Famili Trust Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Woburn House.
Convenor - Ray Manning 0274 587 565

Current Affairs and Topics of Interest Group (CATIG) –4th Mon 1 pm. Russell Keown House, Queens Drive.
Convenor - Ken Baird 564 2579

Film – 1st Mon morning at Lighthouse, Petone.
Convenors Judy & Gordon Heeley – 973 8816

Local History – last day of the month.
Convenor – Brenda Baker 569 5308

Theatre – Sun pm several times a year.
Convenor – Christine Williams ph 568 2342

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**See you at St Marks Church
Woburn Road
1pm Monday 13th February 2023**

**For membership enquiries and
information about U3A Hutt Valley
visit our Website**

<https://u3ahuttvalley.weebly.com/>